



JOHNSONIAN NEWS LETTER

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TWENTY YEARS

With this number JNL completes two decades of service. At such a time we may perhaps be forgiven some sentimental recollections. It was at the M.L.A. meeting in Boston, in December 1940, that the first meager mimeographed sheets were handed out. The idea originally was Jim Osborn's. For some years he had been talking about the necessity for some kind of clearinghouse for 18th-century research problems. Finally, with the kind help of Pete Jones (Western Reserve), who was Chairman that year of Group VIII, the project was launched.

Many of you will remember those first uncertain years. The plan had been not to have any regular publication, but to publish whenever there was enough material. Thus in 1941 there were seven slim issues; in 1942, five; in 1943, five again; in 1944, only four. Gradually we settled down to four a year, though there has never been any attempt at regular quarterly publication. We try for two in the winter and spring, and two in the early and late autumn, but like a good many of our sister publications we seem to be getting farther and farther behind. If the truth must be told, we produce an issue when the editor's file becomes too fat to fit into the drawer.

How full of projects and wonderful schemes we were in those early years! Indeed, to read through the early numbers is rather a sobering experience. Whatever happened to the all-inclusive index to 18th-century periodicals—the list of obituaries—the revision of Crane and Kaye's list of newspaper holdings—the identification of anonymous pieces—the description of all books containing lists of subscribers—the 18th-century short-title catalogue of books published—and the host of other suggested group projects which we urged with such enthusiasm? Only one—the Augustan Reprint Society—has become an established, valuable institution, and another, the revision of Genest's work on the stage, has at last begun to appear. But where is the new crop of projectors dreaming of other impossible compilations? Where are the Jim Osborns of the 1960's? If they exist, they seem strangely inarticulate. Or have we all been cowed by common sense and inflation?

Not that the past twenty years have been a dry period for scholarship. Quite the opposite. Despite wars and rumors of wars, the pages of JNL record a long series of major achievements—the Twickenham Pope, the Shakespeare Head Swift, volumes of the Clarendon Swift, the new Boswell edition, the works of Dennis, Prior, Rymer, Steele, Churchill, Smart—the first volumes of the Dryden and Johnson editions—the letters of Pope, Addison, Steele, Defoe, Gibbon, Percy, Walpole, Burke—a host of admirable biographies of such writers as Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, Gray, Hume, Fanny Burney—to name only a few. And this is not even to suggest the wealth of historical and critical works—and others in the history of ideas—which have appeared during the past two decades. No one can deny that it was from 1940 to 1960 that 18th-century studies came of age, and JNL is proud to have recorded every struggle of adolescence. But back to our reminiscing.

Certainly JNL in those early years was a much livelier publication than it is today. Those were the days of special quizzes, of verse imitations, of collections of apocryphal anecdotes. Do you remember Dick Altick's ringing heroic couplets in the special Pope number, and J. R. Moore's discovery of a new letter from Lemuel Gulliver, found among the papers of Col. Ynlhmdwihlma Simpson of Horse Cave, Ky., first printed in the Swift memorial issue? It is shocking to think how staid and sober we have become—reduced to book reviews, queries, and lists of articles. Perhaps it is time that someone else infused new blood into the undertaking. Any offers?

However lamely, we do keep going, and we thank you one and all for support in the past. Without your letters and suggestions JNL could not have progressed at all. We are particularly grateful to Bill Payne (C.C. N.Y.), our helpful Assistant Editor from 1946 to 1950, and to John Middendorf, who has done all the hard work since then. And perhaps a word should be said of JNL's 20th birthday party, arranged by Joe Scouten and Maurice Johnson at the recent M.L.A. meeting. To those of you who could not attend, let us say that, aside from any personal prejudices, it was a wholly delightful affair. We always have thought that 18th-century scholars were the most agreeable and friendly people in the world. At least they like each other's company. How about making an 18th-century cocktail party at M.L.A. an annual affair?

A NEW FIELDING EDITION

One of the most exciting bits of news to reach us in a long time is the announcement by the Wesleyan University Press (Middletown, Conn.)

of a forthcoming complete edition of the works of Henry Fielding. Although there will be no public statement for some time, details of the project were given to eighteenth-century groups at the recent M.L.A. meeting. Matters have gone far past the mere talking stage. A special working editorial committee and an advisory board have been set up. The following have agreed to serve in an advisory capacity: John Butt (Edinburgh), J. L. Clifford (Columbia), Arthur Friedman (Chicago), Richard L. Greene (Wesleyan), Allen T. Hazen (Columbia), Louis A. Landa (Princeton), Maynard Mack (Yale), A. D. McKillop (Rice), J. M. Osborn (Yale), George Sherburn (Harvard retired), J. R. Sutherland (London). The active group of editors, with their initial responsibilities, are: Charles B. Woods (Iowa) for the plays, Martin C. Battestin (Wesleyan) for Joseph Andrews, Henry K. Miller, Jr. (Princeton) for the Miscellanies, etc., William B. Coley (Wesleyan) for the journals, and James A. Work and G.E. Jensen for Tom Jones. Other assignments will be made later. A meeting of some of the advisors and editors was held recently in Philadelphia. We will hope to have more news releases for you in the near future. Meanwhile many congratulations to Wesleyan and to all the younger and older scholars who have been active in promoting this much needed edition.

THE LONDON STAGE, 1660-1800

As we indicated above, one great project long desired, the listing of all theatrical performances during our period, is at last beginning to appear. We welcome it with gratitude and acclaim. Congratulations to the Southern Illinois University Press, and to the five editors: Emmett L. Avery, C. Beecher Hogan, William Van Lennep, Arthur H. Scouten, and George Winchester Stone, Jr. At last we will have available a reliable listing of plays and casts throughout the Restoration and eighteenth century. Let no one suppose that the ten or eleven volumes which will make up the completed set will be useful only to students of the drama. They will be invaluable as a reference tool for every one of us. Suppose you have an undated letter, in which there is a reference to the writer's having been at Drury Lane the night before for ---'s benefit performance of ---. Now all you will need to do is to consult LS (What, by the way, shall we call it?). Of course, nothing is ever as simple as that, but the immense value of this great work cannot be overemphasized.

According to plan, it will be published in five installments. The first to appear, covering the period 1700-1729, edited by Emmett L. Avery (2 vols.), was formally launched at a party in New York City in December. The others will appear when ready, we hope not too far in the future. Space does

not permit a detailed review of this first installment. Printed in Austria, though produced in this country, the volumes are handsome and well designed. Avery's long Introduction is full of information, containing new evidence about financial and production problems, and bringing together in one place much background material. For anyone who wants to know how plays were produced and advertized in the early 18th century, how theatres were financed, who made up the audience, and a multitude of other such vexing questions, Avery provides the answers.

Of course, every reader will have his own minor regrets. A moment's thought should indicate, however, that it was out of the question to include all actors and actresses in the general index. Just the same, one could wish that the index had been made a bit fuller and more descriptive. Also, it is too bad that there could not have been slightly fuller descriptions of new plays when they were first produced. It is still necessary to keep Genest readily available for consultation on peripheral matters. Like Chapman's edition of Johnson's letters, where Birkbeck Hill is still required for annotation, the new set of volumes, because of mounting expense, is necessarily more austere and restricted than would have been the case had it been brought out in other times. But why cry for the moon? With such a glorious feast provided for us, we may appear ungrateful even to mention such regrets. Everyone will agree that this is one of the most important reference works to be provided for us in many a day.

A DEFOE CHECKLIST

Another work which has undoubtedly suffered because of mounting printing costs is John Robert Moore's A Checklist of the Writings of Daniel Defoe (Univ. of Indiana Press). In this, as Moore explains, he has tried simply to tell "what Defoe wrote, when, and often why he wrote and published it, who printed and sold it, and where copies of first editions are to be found in accessible libraries." He attempts no full-scale bibliography. Nor does he have space to include all the evidence on which various new ascriptions of authorship are made. Alas! If only there were no such thing as costs! What we very much need is an exhaustive work which would assemble all the existing evidence pertaining to Defoe's connection with each work ever attributed to him. Who first made the ascription, on what authority, and with what proof? What further evidence has turned up? But the expense of printing such a work would be prohibitive. Until some generous foundation will back a complete survey of the problem, we are happy to have a record of what the most active Defoe scholar in the world thinks the canon should be.

POPE'S EPISTLE TO BATHURST

As a sample of the other side of the picture, the Johns Hopkins Press has spared no expense in producing a beautiful edition of Pope's 3d Moral Epistle, "Of the Use of Riches." And Earl Wasserman has earned our deep gratitude for the hours upon hours of labor he has expended in deciphering manuscript corrections and in attempting to explicate every cryptic allusion in the poem. Basically the 145-page volume contains the following: the final 1744 text of the poem; a 47-page (double column) critical reading; a facsimile, with careful transcriptions, of three manuscript versions now in the Huntington Library; and finally the early printed version of 1732. In this way the reader is able to follow Pope in his creative experiments, with the able guidance of a scrupulous modern editor. This is a volume to be cherished and shown to generation after generation of students.

THE GAZETTEER

We have long thought that one of our greatest needs is a series of special studies of eighteenth-century newspapers. Happily Robert L. Haig (Illinois) has now supplied an account of The Gazetteer, 1735-1797 (University of Southern Illinois Press), the first full-scale history of a single daily paper in our period. It is very welcome. Haig provides the sort of information we have wanted—descriptions of changes of policy and editorship, discussions of financial details, and production problems. He was fortunately able to consult much important manuscript evidence in the Public Record Office and elsewhere, though other material (particularly a marked office file of the paper) has apparently not survived. Basically what he gives us is a biography of the Gazetteer, the story of its difficulties and triumphs. This is a major scholarly work, which is informative and instructive. We hope that Haig's work will stimulate others of you to do similar studies of the Daily Advertiser, Public Advertiser, Morning Post, St. James's Chronicle and other influential papers which flourished during the eighteenth-century.

CHARLES MACKLIN

If you are looking for a delightful biography which makes a long-forgotten popular actor live again, we can heartily recommend Bill Appleton's Charles Macklin, An Actor's Life (Harvard). Well written and full of interesting new evidence, it is a first-rate production. It has long been known that Macklin knew Johnson and was thought to model his behavior on that of the Great Cham; Appleton now gives us all the necessary documentation con-

cerning the relationship. Every reader will find his own favorite anecdotes. We cherish most the little vignette recovered from the Yale Boswell Papers, where the aging Macklin, almost 90 years old, disappointed at Boswell's failure to confirm a dinner engagement, wrote to him, "Relieve me from doubt, directly or I shall make an immediate Excursion with a Nymph that waits my answer...." Life never was sedate for Charles Macklin!

OTHER NEW BOOKS

For teachers of the history of the novel there are many useful new aids. Of particular value will be William Harlin McBurney's A Check-List of English Prose Fiction, 1700-1739 (Harvard). Here are listed 337 titles of fictional works in the period, and 54 dubious or unauthenticated works. Our only regret comes in the shortness of McBurney's Introduction. In it he suggests a number of important matters, but fails to give us adequate critical explication. For example, there is the puzzling problem of definition of types—pretended histories, memoirs, lives, voyages, adventures, tales, correspondences, journal accounts. He claims that it is possible to see how tastes were changing by the shifting popularity of types. Thus memoirs were favored in the first decade of the century; then life adventures in the 1720's; and finally secret histories in the 1730's. But he is not explicit about his own standards of selection. Every expert will be able to find works not included yet apparently similar to ones that are. We hope that some day McBurney will amplify this suggestive point in a longer work.

Another useful work is The Counterfeit Lady Unveiled: and Other Criminal Fiction of Seventeenth-Century England, edited by Spiro Peterson (Doubleday Anchor paperback). Included are five short fictional accounts which appeared from 1664 to 1694. For background and early assignments this should be invaluable.

A new paperback of Roderick Random (Doubleday Dolphin Books) is welcome, even one with no modern critical introduction. But when will we have easily available the most characteristic of Smollett's works, Peregrine Pickle? Who will help us exert pressure for a cheap one-volume Pickle, even without Lady Vane?

We welcome also a new organization, "Scholars' Facsimiles and Reprints," with Harry Warfel as General Editor (address 118 N.W. 26th St., Gainesville, Florida). Included among some of its recent issues are two which come in our period: Anti-Achitophel: Three Verse Replies to

Absalom and Achitophel by John Dryden, edited by Harold W. Jones [reproduced are Settle's Absalom Senior, Pordage's Azaria and Hushai, and the anonymous Poetical Reflections]; and The Humours and Conversations of the Town [1693], probably by James Wright, with an Introduction by Brice Harris. Both of these facsimile brochures make available rare pieces which every teacher would like to have his students see. Many congratulations to this worthy enterprise! May it long flourish!

In this age of reinterpretation of past figures it might have been expected that King George III be rescued from obloquy. The Namierian historians, of course, have been re-examining his age; now there comes a sympathetic popular biography by J. C. Long, entitled George III: the Story of a Complex Man (Little, Brown). Some new evidence is brought forward from the King's early school exercises, now at Windsor Castle, and from other archives, but the chief purpose of this pleasantly written account is to attempt to achieve a better understanding of George as human being and monarch, not to provide a historical reference work.

Other recent books should be noted. Albert M. Lyles; (Univ. of Tenn.) Methodism Mocked (London, Epworth Press) is well illustrated, and documents with amusing examples one satiric target which proved irresistible to such diverse writers as Foote and Graves. Oscar Sherwin, Uncorking Old Sherry (Twayne) gives a fast-moving account of the life and times of Richard Brinsley Sheridan [We must confess that the continued use of the present tense proves something of a block, but perhaps we are old-fashioned]. Wylie Sypher, Rococo to Cubism in Art and Literature (Random House) is an important work in aesthetics which will have to be reckoned with. We lack space here for any kind of detailed criticism. Perhaps there will be an opportunity in a later issue. We have only had a glimpse of Morris Golden, In Search of Stability: the Poetry of William Cowper (Bookman Associates).

A recent publication which should prove useful to those engaged in research in London is The British Public Record Office (Virginia State Library, Richmond, Va.). To be sure, the description is largely from the standpoint of work on American colonial affairs, but the general remarks will apply to all work at the PRO.

In addition, the following should be listed: The Continental Model: Selected French Critical Essays of the Seventeenth Century, in English Translation, ed. Scott Elledge and Donald S. Schier (University of Minnesota Press); Christopher Smart's Song to David, ed. John Broadbent

(Bodley Head); Sidney Burrell, The Memoirs of Captain Peter Drake, 1671-1753 (Stanford Univ. Press); Hans Utz, Die Hollis Sammlung in Bern: ein Beitrag zu den Englisch-Schweizerischen Beziehungen in der Zeit der Aufklärung (Herbert Lang, Bern) [We owe our knowledge of this to Caroline Robbins]; Dictionnaire des Lettres Française au XVIII^e Siècle, ed. A. Grente (Fayard, Paris), Vols. IV and V; F. P. Wilson, Seventeenth-Century Prose (Univ. of Calif. Press); Seymour de Ricci, English Collectors of Books and Manuscripts, 1530-1930 (a new edition, Indiana Univ. Press).

We are happy to see the new revised edition of Marjorie H. Nicolson's Breaking of the Circle (Columbia Univ. Press); and the paperback of Sam Monk's book on The Sublime (Univ. of Michigan).

William Gillis (State College, Moorhead, Minn.) writes that we should notice particularly Thomas Crawford's Burns: a Study of the Poems and Songs (Edinburgh, Oliver and Boyd; Stanford in U.S.). Gillis insists that Crawford, a New Zealander, "has written a basic book on Burns which should be the starting point for serious Burns criticism. He approaches Burns with objectivity and a unified viewpoint and painstakingly points out the artistry of both Scots and English poems. Aside from a chapter in Kurt Wittig's The Scottish Tradition in Literature, heretofore no such criticism on Burns has existed."

SPRING MEETING OF JSGLR

From David G. Spencer (Loyola University, Chicago 26) comes word of plans for the next meeting of The Johnson Society of the Great Lakes Region, scheduled for Saturday, April 15. The President this year is Arthur Sherbo. The program will be held at the Lewis Towers Campus (820 N. Michigan Ave.), and reservations for out-of-town visitors will be made at the Allerton Hotel nearby. Write to Spencer if you think you can attend what looks like a fascinating program. Here it is:

Morning Session: 9:30 a.m.

1. Frances Mayhew Rippy, Ball State College, "Alexander Pope as an Editor of Matthew Prior."
2. J. E. Congleton, Findlay College, "James Thomson Callender, Johnson, and Jefferson."

3. Gwin J. Kolb, University of Chicago, "The Johnsonian Canon: New Attributions and a Hypothesis."
4. Peter J. Stanlis, University of Detroit, "Burke's Criticism of Rousseau's Sensibility."

Luncheon: 12:00 noon

Speaker: Louis I. Bredvold, Professor of English Emeritus,
University of Michigan: "Dr. Johnson for Our Times."

Afternoon Session: 2:00 p.m.

Debate

Topic: "Resolved, that the politics of Samuel Johnson are fundamentally different from the politics of Edmund Burke."

Affirmative: Donald J. Greene, University of New Mexico, author
of The Politics of Samuel Johnson.

Negative: Russell Kirk, C. W. Post College, Long Island University author, of The Conservative Mind.

Annual Business Meeting: 4:00 p.m.

JOHNSON NOTES

We wish we could give you a complete description of a delightful Johnsonian dinner held at the University of Virginia on November 17. As the second annual meeting of the University of Virginia Johnson Club, it was an occasion long to be remembered, at least by your senior editor, who was privileged to attend. Under the inspiration of Mrs. Francelia Butler there was a sumptuous repast, with all the favorite foods mentioned by Johnson, temptingly described in a large printed menu. To put it mildly, it was quite an affair. Many thanks to Archibald Shepperson, the sponsor; to the co-presidents of the club — Brewster Ford and Dick Dillard — and to Mrs. Butler. One may hope that it set a tradition which will long flourish.

The next meeting of the Johnson Society of the Midwest will be in conjunction with the Midwest Modern Language Ass'n which meets at Urbana, Illinois, on March 30—April 1. For details write to S.J. Sacket, Fort Hayes State College, Hays, Kansas.

We have not seen a copy, but we hear that Lillian de la Torre (Mrs. George McCue of Colorado College) has issued a second volume of tales, with Johnson and Boswell acting the parts of Holmes and Watson. The title of the book is The Detections of Dr. Sam: Johnson (Doubleday). Eight new stories are included. If like the earlier collection, it will be very pleasant reading.

Continually we receive clippings from newspapers and periodicals containing outrageous uses of Johnson to sell this or that product. What must reach some kind of a record has recently been received from Donald Thackrey, a page from the Michigan Daily of October 18. Here boldly displayed is Reynolds' portrait of the older Johnson, and under it the announcement "For Relief from Gout, Neuritis, Neuralgia, Buy a Supply of Student Directories."

Or if any proof were ever needed that comparisons are odious, what about the following quote in the New York Times of August 25 from a bookseller's blurb? "What Boswell did for Samuel Johnson in English literature, Robert Oberfirst is doing for Rudolph Valentino in American literature."

A recent foreign publication which has just reached us is Samuel Johnson's Preface to Shakespeare e Altri Scritti Shakespeariani: Scelta, Introduzione et Note a Cura di Agostino Lombardo (Bari: Adriatica Editrice, 1960). We hope to have more about this next time. Something to look forward to is Robert Voitle's Samuel Johnson the Moralizer, promised by the Harvard University Press in the late spring or summer.

The following articles concern Johnson and Boswell: Katharine C. Balderston, "Dr. Johnson's Use of William Law in the Dictionary," PQ for July; James Gray, "Dr. Johnson and the 'Intellectual Gladiators'," Dalhousie Rev. for Autumn; D. J. Greene, "Johnsonian Critics," Essays in Criticism for October; Russell Kirk, "Samuel Johnson the Statist," Kenyon Rev. for Autumn; John L. Mahoney, "Dr. Johnson at Work; Observations on a Columbia Rare Book," Columbia Library Columns for November; A.T. Elder, "Irony and Humour in the Rambler," University of Toronto Quart., October 1960; Henry Pettit, "Dr. Johnson and the Cheerful Robots," Western Humanities Review for Autumn; Albrecht B. Strauss, "English and American Celebrations of Dr. Samuel Johnson's 250th Birthday," in the latest issue of Books Abroad.

The 1960 Transactions of the Lichfield Johnson Society contains,

along with an account of the September celebrations, the Presidential address by Sir William Haley, "Dr. Samuel Johnson: Journalist." The New Rambler, the journal of the Johnson Society of London, for January 1961, includes parts of a number of addresses: Charles Parish, "Johnson's Books and the Birmingham Library"; Maurice Quinlan, "Johnson's Sense of Charity"; a commemorative talk by R. W. Ketton-Cremer; and a number of reviews and other comments.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS ITEMS

For those of you who keep old copies of JNL, and we were delighted at our twentieth birthday party in Philadelphia to find out how many there are, we promise an index of volumes XVI-XX, to reach you sometime in late spring. We hope!

We are pleased to hear from Peter Stanlis (University of Detroit) that arrangements are being made to continue the "Burke News Letter" separately from now on. Complete details of arrangements, together with information about the reprinting of back copies, and special hard covers to hold the issues, will be forthcoming in our next number.

Early in 1961 Geoffrey Tillotson will bring out a volume of Augustan Studies, which will include many of his uncollected essays, as well as others which are well known. Among them are his two articles on poetic diction, to which he has made a long addition, completely new, entitled "More about Poetic Diction." There are also revised versions of his British Academy lecture on "The Manner of Proceeding in Certain Eighteenth- and Early Nineteenth-Century Poems" and essays on Dyer's "Grongar Hill," Pope, Gray, and Johnson. It sounds like an appetizing feast, and we look forward eagerly to seeing a copy.

Jim Osborn's edition of the first autobiography in the English language [Whythorne] is expected early in the new year from Clarendon. On Sunday, October 16, on Station WTIC in New Haven, Jim was interviewed about his many discoveries. Entitled "The Work of a Literary Detective," the interview is available in mimeographed form, so we gather, from the Yale University Office of Information.

We are sad to announce the recent death of Mary Alden Hopkins, author of Dr. Johnson's Lichfield, a life of Hannah More, and other books.

Here are a number of progress reports which may be of interest:

Clarence Tracy writes that the Cambridge University Press is publishing his edition of the Poems of Richard Savage, probably sometime in 1961. We hear that Warren Derry (17 Sion Hill, Bath) is writing a life of Dr. Samuel Parr, and would be glad to receive any suggestions concerning surviving manuscript material. We hear also that Charles Ward (Duke) has at last finished the manuscript of his life of Dryden. Robert E. Moore (Minnesota) has completed a book, Henry Purcell and the Restoration Theatre, to be published by Heinemann in London and the Harvard University Press in this country. Herbert Davis is to do a one-volume edition of Pope for the Oxford Standard Authors series. David Vieth (Kansas) has completed a volume of Rochester Studies. Curt Zimansky writes that the reprinting of the annual PQ bibliography in book form by the Princeton University Press moves steadily forward. He asks JNL readers to let him know of any typographical errors or minor mistakes in the last ten numbers, so that they may be corrected. Gwin Kolb is doing the major share in shaping an index for the volumes, but corrections should be sent to Zimansky at the University of Iowa. The first volume of Irvin Ehrenpreis's biography of Swift (Methuen) is well advanced, and it is hoped that it will appear in 1961. Ehrenpreis, this next semester, is to be Visiting Professor at Brandeis. Martin Battestin has completed an annotated students' edition of Joseph Andrews and Shamela for the Riverside Series.

John Brooke has been appointed the successor of Sir Lewis Namier as Editor of the volumes of the History of Parliament, 1754-1790. He writes that a great deal of work remains to be done before the work is ready for the press, but that he hopes to see the end within two years' time. Brooke adds, "Some of Sir Lewis's best work will appear in these volumes, and I am sure that every admirer of his, and every student of eighteenth-century history or literature, will find them of absorbing interest."

Bill Wimsatt writes from London of his progress in attempting to solve the many difficult problems of Pope iconography. It is hoped that there can be arranged a special exhibition of Pope portraits at the National Portrait Gallery this next spring, but details are not yet certain.

We have heard from Esmond de Beer and others concerning celebrations of the Restoration (1660-1960) in London; and the Grolier Club in New York City arranged a special exhibition on this topic during the autumn. On November 15 George Lord of Yale spoke there on the topic "Restoration Literature as a Political Instrument."

(Sorry, no room this time for our usual queries and articles)